





Civics Test Requirements

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Agenda

- ▶ Critical fact sheet overview
- ▶ Civics Test
- ▶ Test administration
- ▶ Accommodations
- ▶ Implementation
- ▶ Scoring the test
- ▶ Recording the results
- ▶ Questions



Critical Fact Sheet

- ▶ In 2017, the Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 159 (2017). The law reads that beginning in July 2018, a student must pass a civics test composed of 100 questions in order to graduate from a public high school with a regular diploma. Each local board of education will be expected to prepare or approve an exam that must be composed of questions from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test. Students are required to score 60% or higher and may retake the exam as many times as deemed necessary to pass the test.





1 AN ACT relating to civics education in public schools.

2 *Be it enacted by the General Assembly of the Commonwealth of Kentucky:*

3 ➔SECTION 1. A NEW SECTION OF KRS CHAPTER 158 IS CREATED TO
4 READ AS FOLLOWS:

5 (1) Beginning on July 1, 2018, to graduate from a Kentucky public high school with
6 a regular diploma, a student shall pass a civics test composed of one hundred
7 (100) questions drawn from those that are set forth within the civics test
8 administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services to
9 persons seeking to become naturalized citizens.

10 (2) A local board of education shall prepare or approve a test composed of the
11 questions described in subsection (1) of this section and shall disseminate the test
12 to all public high schools of the district. The test shall be administered by the
13 public high schools in each district.

14 (3) A public high school shall provide each student with the opportunity to take the
15 test as many times as necessary for the student to pass the test. A student shall not
16 receive a regular high school diploma until the student passes the test.

17 (4) A student passes the test if at least sixty percent (60%) of the questions are
18 answered correctly.

100 Civics Questions and Answers with MP3 Audio (English version)

The 100 civics (history and government) questions and answers for the naturalization test are listed below. The civics test is an oral test and the USCIS Officer will ask the applicant up to 10 of the 100 civics questions. An applicant must answer 6 out of 10 questions correctly to pass the civics portion of the naturalization test.

On the naturalization test, some answers may change because of elections or appointments. As you study for the test, make sure that you know the most current answers to these questions. Answer these questions with the name of the official who is serving at the time of your eligibility interview with USCIS. The USCIS Officer will not accept an incorrect answer.

Although USCIS is aware that there may be additional correct answers to the 100 civics questions, applicants are encouraged to respond to the civics questions using the answers provided below.

* If you are 65 years old or older and have been a legal permanent resident of the United States for 20 or more years, you may study just the questions that have been marked with an asterisk.

- [Listen to the MP3 audio of all 100 civics questions and answers \(MP3, 27.68 MB\)](#)

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A: Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land? [Question 1 Audio \(MP3, 157 KB\)](#)

- the Constitution

2. What does the Constitution do? [Question 2 Audio \(MP3, 244 KB\)](#)

- sets up the government
- defines the government
- protects basic rights of Americans

3. The idea of self-government is in the first three words of the Constitution. What are these words? [Question 3 Audio \(MP3, 237 KB\)](#)

- We the People



Test administration

- ▶ A local board of education will be expected to prepare or approve an assessment composed of questions from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test.
- ▶ The local board will be expected to disseminate the test to all public high schools of the district who will administer the test.
- ▶ Questions can be short answer, multiple choice, or a combination of formats.
- ▶ It must be composed of 100 questions.



Each local board of education will be expected to prepare or approve an exam:



► Examples:

AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A: Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land? [Question 1 Audio \(MP3, 157 KB\)](#)

- the Constitution

Civics Test *Short answer format*

Government

1. What is the supreme law of the land?

-
1. What is the supreme law of the land?
- A. the U.S. Constitution
 - B. the Articles of Confederation
 - C. the Emancipation Proclamation
 - D. the Declaration of Independence

Test Administration



AMERICAN GOVERNMENT

A: Principles of American Democracy

1. What is the supreme law of the land? [Question 1 Audio \(MP3, 157 KB\)](#)

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- sets up the government
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Test administration

► Statutory Clarification

- A student who has passed a similar test within the previous five years is not required to take the test.
 - ✓ Students who have taken a similar exam that was modified from the 100 question test administered by the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services at the high school level within the last five years are not required to take the test again.



Which grade takes the test?

- ▶ The statute requiring the civics test does not provide guidance regarding the high school grade(s) when students should be permitted to take the test.
- ▶ Students should have the opportunity to learn the content on the civics test before being asked to take the test.
- ▶ Consideration must be made regarding when students take the three credits in social studies



Test Accommodations



- ▶ Schools must be in accordance with the requirements and accommodations of a student's individualized education program as defined in KRS 158.281 or a Section 504 Plan as defined in KRS 156.027.
 - If a student is entitled to accommodations based on an IEP or 504 plan, these accommodations must be provided for the citizenship test.
- ▶ For a student on track for an alternate diploma, the citizenship test would not be required to earn the alternate diploma.

Test accommodations

- ▶ The state regulation [703 KAR 5:070](#) requires procedures for special populations in the state-required assessments, which includes ELs.
- ▶ Any EL student should get accommodations that are listed in their Program Service Plan (PSP).
 - For more information on Program Service Plan (PSP) requirements for ELs, please contact Gary Martin at gary.martin@education.ky.gov



Implementation

- ▶ While some local school districts may decide to implement this exam like a traditional standardized test, this is not the only way to administer this test.
- ▶ Local school boards can have the questions from this exam spread out in applicable unit assessments, among different social studies courses or years of study.
- ▶ As long as the district has a method to document a student's performance on the 100 questions, the district may select the implementation method that best meets the needs of their students.



Scoring the Test

- ▶ Scoring of the civics test is done locally.



Recording the results

- ▶ There is currently no requirement and no system in place for collecting or reporting data on the civics test to the Kentucky Department of Education.
- ▶ Local boards of education will determine how the passing grade will be documented



Resources





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Social Studies

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Announcements

KDE Hosts Civics Symposium

The Kentucky Department of Education will host the 2017 Kentucky Civics Symposium to promote best practices in civics education. This symposium will occur 9 a.m.-4 p.m. ET in three locations across the state:

- June 19 – Frankfort, Old Capitol Building and Kentucky Historical Society
- July 10 – Elizabethtown, Hardin County Schools Early College and Career Center
- July 14 – Ashland, Kentucky Educational Development Corporation

Join us as speakers provide educators with hands-on support in creating civics curricula with robust, relevant learning experiences for students to promote the "doing" of social studies through action civics.


You can:

- learn new social studies-related strategies that engage and motivate students;
- dig into effective strategies for improved student achievement; and
- gain a deeper understanding of civics best practices.



Resources





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Citizenship Assessment

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In 2017, the Kentucky General Assembly passed Senate Bill 159 (2017). The law reads that beginning in July 2018, a student must pass a civics test composed of 100 questions in order to graduate from a public high school with a regular diploma. Each local board of education will be expected to prepare or approve an exam that must be composed of questions from the United States Citizenship and Immigration Services test. Students are required to score 60% or higher and may retake the exam as many times as deemed necessary to pass the test.

Click here to access the [US Citizenship and Immigration Services Test Items](#).

Click here to access [the full text of the bill](#).

Critical highlights include:

- Local boards of education and charter school governing bodies may decide how the test is administered and implemented.
- Students must correctly answer at least 60 of the 100 questions on the civics test.
- Students may retake the test as many times as necessary to pass.
- Local boards of education will determine how the passing grade will be documented.
- A student who has passed a similar test within the previous five



Where to get the latest updates on social studies and the civics test?

► KDE Social Studies Homepage

- <http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/conpro/socstud/Pages/default.aspx>

► KDE Social Studies Civics Test webpage

- <http://education.ky.gov/curriculum/conpro/socstud/Pages/citizenshipassessment.aspx>

► Kentucky Teacher: Social Studies

- <https://www.kentuckyteacher.org/subjects/social-studies/>

► Social studies listserve

► Commissioner's email



Questions?



- ▶ **Lauren Gallicchio**
- ▶ Lauren.gallicchio@education.ky.gov

2017 Kentucky Civics Symposium

- ▶ Join us for this free professional learning opportunity hosted by the Kentucky Department of Education. The Kentucky Civic Symposium will provide educators with hands-on support in creating civic curricula with robust, relevant learning experiences for students in an effort to promote the “doing” of social studies through action civics.
- ▶ **June 19: Frankfort: Old Capitol Building and Kentucky Historical Society**
- ▶ **July 10: Elizabethtown: Hardin County Schools Early College and Career Center**
- ▶ **July 11: Murray: Murray State University**
- ▶ **July 14: Ashland: Kentucky Educational Development Corporation (KEDC)**
- ▶ For more information and to register to attend, visit <http://kdecivics.weebly.com>

